



EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

For immediate release

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Contact: Mark Clemens

Phone: 800-688-8955 (*media only*)

Web address: <http://www.emd.wa.gov>

More flooding reactivates State Emergency Operations Center

CAMP MURRAY, WA – After activating then resuming normal operations over the weekend, The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) reactivated Monday morning due to a large sinkhole in one location and continuing rains throughout much of Western Washington.

The activation came in response to a sinkhole in Clallam County that has cut off Neah Bay from the outside world. The sinkhole appeared Saturday on State Route 112 west of Sequim and has continued to grow. Also a concern were rising waters on the Skagit River in Skagit County and the Skokomish River in Mason County.

Clallam and Mason counties have activated their EOCs, while Skagit and Whatcom counties are expected to activate their EOCs this afternoon.

The State EOC returned to Phase II Enhanced operations at 10:45 a.m. today. Staff will continue to monitor current and incoming weather systems in the state, as well as ongoing recovery efforts in counties that have already been affected.

From Friday morning through midday Saturday, Oct. 17-18, the State EOC was activated at the heightened Phase III level in response to flooding on several Western Washington rivers. Lt. Gov. Brad Owen proclaimed a state of emergency Friday morning to support Clallam, Skagit and Whatcom counties as they responded to flooding and landslides.

After the Flood

The following tips are for people in communities affected by floodwaters:

Be aware of where waters have receded and may have weakened road surfaces.

- Stay away from and report downed power lines.
- Stay away from flooded areas unless local authorities ask for volunteers.
- Continue listening to the radio for information about where to get assistance.

--- more on next page ---

- Consider health and safety needs. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with floodwaters.
- Throw away food that has come in contact with floodwaters.
- Call your insurance agent.
- Keep records of all clean up and repair costs.
- Take photos of or videotape your belongings and your home.
- Don't throw away damaged goods until an official inventory has been taken.
- If you don't already have it, consider purchasing flood insurance before the next event. Flood insurance has a 30-day waiting period before it becomes effective.
- Take steps to flood proof your home before the next flood event. Call your local building department or emergency management office for information.
- Keep all insurance policies and a household inventory in a safe place.

Operating as part of the Washington Military Department, the Emergency Management Division staffs the State EOC 24 hours a day year round.

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